REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants appreciate the examiner's indication that the drawings filed on December 27, 2004 are accepted.

Claims 1, 2 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Willens. Reconsideration is requested.

Applicants' independent claims 1 and 7 include a distinguishing element: in claim 1 "registering user information in a database by receiving information pertaining to the age of any user authorized by a person contracted with a service provider;" and in claim 7 "means for registering user information in a database by receiving information pertaining to the age of any user authorized by a person contracted with a service provider." Thus, in the present patent application, a minor's identity can only be defined by a party contracted with a service provider, e.g., a parent, guardian or other interested party. In practice, parents control and monitor web surfing for their minors, and it is possible for the service provider to detect the presence of a minor from the registered information. Thus, age-related information is useful for the service provider so that the provider has the chance to block incoming offending material before it reaches the user.

Willens requires local access control software resident in a local access server that uses filters and cached user requests for sites which are transmitted to a network access server for access determination (col. 3, lines 3-11). This requirement of Willens is patentably distinct from applicants' claim 1 that receives registration information from a party contracted with a service provider including age-related information regarding users. Unlike Willens, applicants' claims 1 and 7 do not require age related information regarding a user to be sent by the client during a request for a connecting to the service provider. Instead, the service provider references log in information received from a user with stored registration information in a database and, thereafter, to determine if the user is a minor. Thus, unlike Willens, claims 1 and 7 do not require any special client software installation to authenticate a user and enable access to networked sites. No software invoking special protocols, such as Willens' use of RADIUS, is required.

Moreover, Willens requires a significant quantity of information regarding a user in order to create a detailed user's profile, including information representing the characteristics of the user. "The client software 44 also keeps the local cache 50 of recently requested sites and recently used user filters[.]" (col. 5; lines 26-28). This feature is also patentably distinct from applicants' claims 1 and 7 that define registration information stored in a database that identifies a user as a minor. Various historical information, such as a user's history of visited and requested sites, is not required in applicants' claims 1 and 7. Instead, claims 1 and 7 require that reliable information is received only from contracting parties, for example, a parent or other interested family member, in order to identify any user as minor. This reduces the complexity and costs associated with preventing access to networked sites from minor users.

Accordingly, applicants submit that claims 1 and 7 are allowable over Willens.

With regard to claim 2, the above comments as to claim 1 apply.

Claims 3-5 were rejected over a combination of Willens and Toga because Toga is said to disclose an accessibility key, a non-accessibility key suitable to identify a site as accessible to a minor user. Reconsideration is requested. Neither Willens nor Toga shows or suggests the features of claims 1 and 7 discussed above.

Further, claims 3-5 specifically require checking for the presence of an accessibility key or a non-accessibility key in a site which is not taught or suggested by Toga. Toga, in contrast, embeds tags in a site that include keywords which define content in the site. In contrast with claims 3-5, however, Toga does not teach checking for accessibility or non-accessibility keys, nor does it teach providing such keys. Claims 4 and 5 include a feature that, in addition to checking for the presence of accessibility and non-accessibility keys, includes checking for the presence of keywords that are suitable to define content in the site. Thus, the added steps defined in claims 4 and 5 (i.e., "checking for the presence of keywords suitable to define content in the site") further distinguish Toga from claims 3-5, because Toga merely teaches keywords that define content in the site. Toga does not teach or suggest the step of checking for accessibility or non-accessibility keys. Claims 3-5 are thus distinguishable from the prior art.

Claims 6 was rejected over a combination of Willens and Walker because Walker is said to teach preparation of report of the navigation performed by the user and sending it to the parent

of a minor user. Reconsideration is requested. Neither Willens nor Walker shows or suggests the features of claims 1 and 7 discussed above.
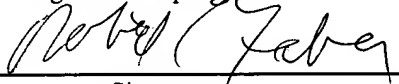
Further, while claim 6 specifically requires preparing the report of the navigation and sending the report to the parents of the minor user, the passage in Walker cited does not describe preparing a report nor delivering a report to a parent. There is no indication in Walker that navigation is reported on or that a report of the navigation is provided. The report indicated is of time or time between two events, not what was viewed and no report of what was viewed by a minor. Claim 6 is thus distinguishable from the prior art.

In conclusion, all of claims 1-7, as amended are allowable and their allowance is requested.

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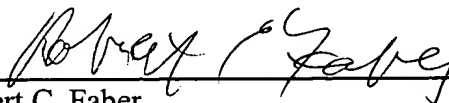| Robert C. Faber |
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| Name of applicant, assignee or Registered Representative |

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Signature

September 27, 2005
Date of Signature

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Respectfully submitted,

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